Sl. No.	NH No.
5.	NH 22-Barog bypass
KARNATAKA	
6.	NH 4-Hubli Dharwar bypass (Phase I)
KERALA	
7.	NH 47-Trivandrum Neyyattinkara bypass (Phase I)
8.	NH 47-Chalakudy bypass
9.	NH 47-Alleppey bypass (Phase I)
MAHARASHTRA	
10.	NH 4-Westerly diversion of Pune
NAGALAND	
11.	NH 39-Dimapur bypass (Phase I)
ORISSA	
12.	NH 42-Meramandalli bypass
13.	NH 5-Rambha bypass
TAMIL NADU	
14.	NH 7-Pugalur bypass
15.	NH 46-Vaniyambadi bypass
16.	NH 46-Vellore bypass
17.	NH 45-Chengalput bypass
18.	NH 7-Coimbatore bypass
UTTAR PRADESH	
19.	NH 2-Varanasi bypass
20.	NH 26-Lalitpur bypass
GOA	
21.	NH 17-Mapusa bypass

[*English*]

Consignment Tax

*178. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal under consideration to bring forward a legislation for the levy of consignment tax;

(b) if so, when and the broad details thereof;

(c) whether the views expressed by some of the State Governments in this regard have also been taken into consideration; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) Some proposals in this regard have been received. The matter requires further consultations with States.

Impact of Rupee Devaluation on Prices of Essential Commodities

*179. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the two-step devaluation of the Indian rupee on the prices of essential commodities and consumer articles; and

(b) how it will stimulate export promotion, induce effective import substitution and arrest the flight of capital from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The impact of the recent exchange rate adjustment on the prices of essential commodities and consumer articles is expected to be marginal. Most of the essential commodities consumed in our country are wholly produced domestically. Among the

essential commodities that are imported, the most important ones are edible oils, pulses and kerosene. The share of imports in the domestic consumption of pulses and edible oils is small. The share of imports in the domestic consumption of kerosene is relatively high, but with effect from the evening of 24 July 1991, the domestic price of kerosene has been reduced by 10 per cent. Under the import-export policy, there are no imports of consumer goods other than life saving drugs and books.

(b) The exchange rate adjustment will stimulate exports by raising their profitability, encourage effective import substitution by making imports costlier, and stem the flight of capital from India by curbing destabilising expectations which were generated by perceptions about the exchange rate of the rupee.

Import Licensing for Capital Goods and Raw Materials

*180. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove all imports licensing for capital goods and raw materials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Certain changes in the import policy for import of raw materials and components by units, other than SSI Units and manufacturers of life saving Medicines/equipment, have been announced recently which reduce the extent of licensing. No change has been made in the import policy for capital goods. The policy of the Government would be to progressively reduce licensing on capital goods and raw materials over a 3 to 5 year period. Detailed proposals in this regard have yet to be worked out.

Formation of Women Army Battalion

*181. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a women army battalion is proposed to be formed;

(b) if so, the proposed strength of the battalion; and

(c) the duties to be assigned to this battalion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While there is no move to induct women in the combat elements, the proposals of the Defence Services for the induction of women in selected branches are being processed for an early decision.

[*Translation*]

Declaration of Part of New Delhi-Bombay Road as National Highway

*182. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi-Bombay road via Ajmer, Nasirabad and Indore is very important from traffic point of view;

(b) whether the headquarters of Army and CRPF, several cement factories and other industrial units are located at three places on this road viz. Nasirabad, Neemuch and Mahu;

(c) whether preliminary formalities have been completed to declare the middle part of this road from Nasirabad to Indore as National Highway; and

(d) if so, the time by which the aforesaid part of New Delhi-Bombay road is likely to be declared as National highway?